

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

DPW-01 AID-20 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /103 W

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R 211020 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8969

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4663

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR 21 MARCH 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONGEN CAN THO SENT ACTION  
AMEMBASSY

SAIGON IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0068

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR 21 MARCH 1973

1. SUMMARY: VC/NVA SHELLINGS INCREASED MARCH 20/21. MORTAR  
ATTACKS ON TRI TON ARE CAUSING CONCERN FOR ICCS SECURITY.  
THE GVN CONTINUES TO RELOCATE FAMILIES INTO MORE SECURE AREAS.  
AN XUYEN SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE WILL INVESTIGATE THOSE WHO  
DENOUNCE CORRUPTION TO " PREVENT VC DISTORTIONS."

2. SECURITY SITUATION: VC/NVA ATTACKS BY FIRE AND HARRASS-  
MENTS IN MR IV PICKED UP YESTERDAY. ACTIVITY INCREASED MOST  
SHARPLY IN CHAU DOC AND KIEN PHONG PROVINCES. THE VC/NVA  
HIT TAN CHAU DISTRICT TOWN ( CHAU DOC), APPROXIMATELY 15 KM  
FROM HONG NGU ( KIEN PHONG) SEVERAL TIMES MARCH 20 AND 21  
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WITH 107 MM AND 122 MM ROCKETS. THE ENEMY TARGET MAY HAVE BEEN A SECTOR ARTILLERY POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN FIRING IN SUPPORT OF GVN TROOPS OPERATING OUT OF THE HONG NGU AREA. CASUALTIES WERE 4 KILLED AND 32 WOUNDED, MOSTLY CIVILIANS.

3. ICCS:

A. A SINGLE MORTAR ROUND HIT THE TRI TON TOWN SCHOOL COURTYARD MARCH 20, WHICH PA&E IS REFURBISHING FOR THE ICCS TEAM OFFICE AND QUARTERS. FOUR VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED, ONE CRITICALLY. ANOTHER 120 MM ROUND LANDED IN THE TRI TON SUB-SECTOR COMPOUND MARCH 21, NEAR THE DISTRICT CHIEF'S FRONT DOOR. IT KILLED ONE SOLDIER AND WOUNDED FIVE, INCLUDING TWO GVN JMC OFFICERS AND THE DISTRICT S-2. REGION VII ICCS IS CONFERRING SEPARATELY WITH THE US/ GVN JMC AND THE DRV/ PRG DELEGATES REGARDING SECURITY AT TRI TON. WE UNDERSTAND ICCS IS MAKING A STRONG PROTEST TO THE PRG/ DRV POINTING OUT THAT THE MORTARING IS ENDANGERING ICCS PERSONNEL.

B. AN ICCS HELICOPTER WAS FIRED ON BETWEEN MY THO AND DONG TAM ON 19 MARCH AT 0830 HOURS. THE HELICOPTER WAS NOT HIT AND NO ONE WAS HURT BY THE SMALL ARMS FIRE.

4. GVN ACTIVITY:

A. SECURITY: GVN OFFICIALS IN SOME DELTA PROVINCES CONTINUE TO MOVE PEOPLE FROM AREAS OF VC INFLUENCE TO AREAS UNDER GVN CONTROL. IN KIEN LONG DISTRICT OF CHUONG THIEN, 21 ST DIVISION SOLDIERS ARE REMOVING FAMILIES FROM JUST WEST OF THE U MINH FOREST. IN VINH LONG AUTHORITIES ARE TAKING ABOUT 800 FAMILIES FROM THE AREA OF THE PROVINCE WHICH BORDERS ON VINH BINH. BA XUYEN IS ALSO CONSIDERING MOVING 3000 PEOPLE FROM SMALL SCATTERED SITES IN INSECURE AREAS TO MORE GVN CONTROLLED AREAS.

B. ADMINISTRATION: THE AN XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD A VICE CONSUL THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO NEW ORDERS FROM HIGHER AUTHORITIES INITIATING ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS (SEE OUR MARCH 16 SITREP, CAN THO 0046). PEOPLE CAN, OF COURSE, WRITE TO TH

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